

## Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership



# Missouri Feral Hog Report

2021

The Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership is comprised of over 15 federal and state agencies, and ag and conservation NGOs collaborating under the common goal of eliminating feral hogs from public and private lands throughout Missouri.

During 2021, the Partnership removed **9,857** hogs from the landscape, assisted **1,308** landowners, and scouted **3,286,133** acres.

In addition to on-the-ground elimination efforts, the Partnership hired 10 full-time trappers as well as four Feral Hog Outreach Educators through the University of Missouri's Extension Program with the goal of additional landowner recruitment, particularly in areas of high feral hog population density.



***"You all are doing a great job with feral hog eradication." -Jim Wisdom.***

Kevin Crider, a Feral Hog Outreach Specialist, assists Jim with a 12A aerial operations permission form. Jim has been one of our partner landowners since early 2021 and operates a nearly 400-acre cattle farm in Dent County.

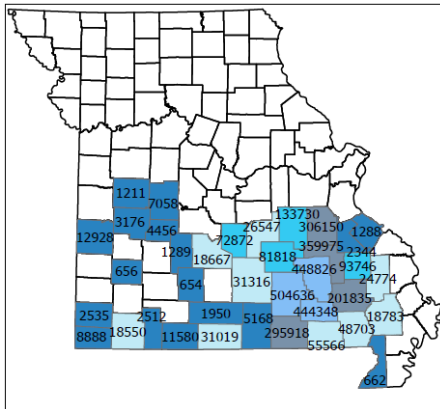
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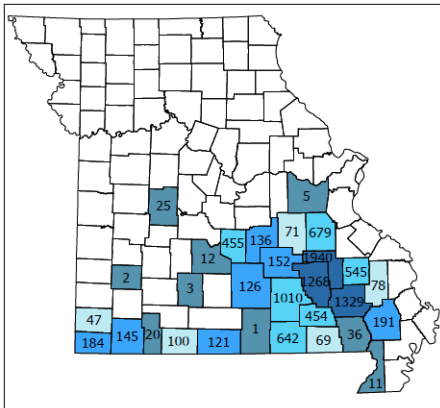
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The Partnership adds additional full-time trappers and Outreach Specialists through MU Extension



**Total Acres Scouted: 3,286,133**



**Total Hogs Removed: 9,857**

Feral swine population removal efforts using aerial operations on both public and private lands continued into 2021. Over the course of the year, more than 750 public and private cooperators continued to provide permission for aerial operations in support of feral swine removal. A total of 193.5 hours of aerial operations were conducted over the course of the year resulting in the removal of 1954 feral swine.

A major step in addressing the feral hog problem in Missouri in 2021 was the passage of House Bill No. 369. This bill redefines feral swine and increases penalties for possessing, transporting and releasing feral swine. To protect landowners, the bill specifically addresses preventing criminalization of accidental escapes, transportation of domestic hogs, and/or farming or raising domestic hogs. This piece of legislation clarifies laws regarding feral hogs and allows for enforcement by various enforcement agencies.

At full staff, a total of 48 full-time trappers are deployed by the Partnership across the state to implement elimination efforts. Of the 48 trappers, 10 are new positions added in 2021.

In 2021, four Feral Hog Outreach Specialists were hired as part of the University of Missouri's Feral Hog Extension Program to act as liaisons for the Partnership. Specific goals of the Feral Hog Extension Program, complimentary to efforts of the Partnership, include 1) establishing relationships with landowners in strategic locations, 2) establishing a quarterly newsletter to improve communications, 3) engaging local organizations such as county Farm Bureau, local Cattleman's Association, County Commissions, etc., 4) conducting surveys and collecting data associated with feral hog damage, 5) connecting landowners with trappers, and 6) conducting landowner meetings and workshops. Efforts in 2021 have been successful, with an additional 39 landowners recruited to participate in aerial operations through Outreach Specialist efforts alone.

# Looking forward....

Continued recruitment of landowners and communication of accurate information to the public regarding feral hogs in Missouri are top priorities for the Partnership continuing into 2022. Continued expansion of removal efforts on private property and procurement of additional funding to provide a full winter of aerial operations in 2022 are additional priorities. The Partnership also aims to expand the use of drones to find hogs and guide trappers to sounders, particularly in dense cover or in hard-to-access locations. The partnership also will make use of a dedicated helicopter for the entire winter. In an effort to aid landowners impacted by feral hog damage, equipment is being purchased utilizing Federal Farm Bill Grant (Feral Swine Control Projects- FSCP) funding and will be placed in counties for landowners to use to repair damage.